

SENATE BILL 778

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 24, Part 2, relative to volunteer
firefighters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-24-201, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commission" means the commission on firefighting personnel standards and education created by this chapter;

(2) "Fire department" means a department of a municipality, county, or political subdivision, or an organization, agency, or entity that offers its services, for or without pay, for the purpose of suppressing fires, performing rescue services, or for other emergency response purposes. "Fire department" does not mean law enforcement agencies, emergency medical agencies licensed by the Tennessee emergency medical services board, and rescue squads that do not provide fire protection;

(3) "Firefighter" means a person in the employ of a unit of government who is a member of the fire department of such unit, is trained in firefighting or prevention of fires, and is actively engaged in such work, and whose primary livelihood is derived from such work; and

(4) "Volunteer firefighter" means any unpaid volunteer member of a county, municipal, or nonprofit fire department that is registered and recognized

by the state fire marshal and is required to extinguish and control fires or fire-related incidents.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-24-202, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) A fire department with employed firefighters who successfully complete in each year an in-service training course, appropriate to the firefighter's rank and responsibility and the size and location of the firefighter's department, of at least forty (40) hours duration at a school certified or established by the commission is entitled to receive a pay supplement of eight hundred dollars (\$800) from the commission to be paid to the firefighter in addition to the firefighter's regular salary.

(2) A fire department with volunteer firefighters who successfully complete in each year an in-service training course, appropriate to the volunteer firefighter's rank and responsibility and the size and location of the volunteer firefighter's department, of at least forty (40) hours duration at a school certified or established by the commission is entitled to receive payment of six hundred dollars (\$600) from the commission.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.